

And in response to the other key criticism of S. 3125, the one related to attorneys' fees, S. 3335 dropped that provision altogether.

In short, the bill that we will have a chance to vote on this week is aimed at helping create jobs, advancing our energy independence, helping working families, and offering relief to those areas that have experienced natural disasters.

And by making major modifications to past versions of the bill, it is aimed at getting broad support.

Now, some Senators really want to vote for this because it is the right thing to do. But they are told by the leadership: Don't do it. They want to vote for it; they are chafing at the bit to vote for it, but they are told not to do it. Why, I don't know.

Now some on the other side have also objected that we should not consider a revenue bill that originated in the Senate.

While it is true that the House must originate revenue bills, there is precedent for the Senate's acting in advance of the House.

For example, the other side did just that in moving the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act in 2005. The Senate took up its bill, S. 2020, on November 16, 2005, nearly a month before the Senate received the House companion measure.

And in the case of the bill before us this week, I think that it is important for Senators to be able to vote for the improved version of the bill, the bill that includes all the changes that I have been discussing.

And after we get a good vote on this bill, we can move to amend a House-passed bill with our Senate measure.

Congress needs to do more than just extend legislation. Congress should work on new policy, new legislation, and new ideas.

We need to take a hard look at our Tax Code. We need to make it fairer and simpler. I have begun that process, through a series of hearings in the Finance Committee.

We need to address the unsustainable growth in health care costs. I have also begun an effort to that end, through a series of hearings on health care, which accounts for one-sixth of America's economy.

And we need to address the vital need for a new energy policy, one that accounts for the changing realities of our environment, our national security, and our economy.

For more than a year, I have been working to pass a meaningful package of energy-tax incentives. It is a package with the goal of moving this country toward greater energy independence. And it is a package that would help to prepare our economy for a system that also addresses global warming.

These are big challenges. And they will not be solved through one bill, or one congressional session. But even though we cannot finish the work, we

still have an obligation to do what we can.

This bill may not finish all the work that we need to do. But this bill does do work that we are obligated to do.

Let us do that work. Let us invoke cloture on the motion to proceed. And let us provide this help to America's economy, to America's energy security, and to the wellbeing of America's working families.

CROW WATER SETTLEMENT

Mr. BAUCUS. President Lyndon Johnson once wrote:

A nation that fails to plan intelligently for the development and protection of its precious waters will be condemned to wither because of its shortsightedness. The hard lessons of history are clear, written on the deserted sands and ruins of once proud civilizations.

I rise today to talk about a proud Nation from my home State of Montana that is planning for the development and protection of its priceless water.

The nation I am referring to is the Crow Nation, and today, along with Senator TESTER, I introduced a bill to ratify the Crow Tribe's water compact.

This compact will protect the Crow Tribe's water rights, provide for the development of municipal and agricultural water systems, and create good paying jobs. Everyone has a right to have access to clean, reliable water, and Senator TESTER and I are here today to help make sure that right is upheld.

In 1908, the Supreme Court established that when Congress set aside land for Native American tribes, it also reserved water rights for the tribes to develop their lands for agriculture. The Crow Tribe has waited nearly 100 years to secure the rights to its water. The bill I am introducing today will ensure that the Crow people can finally access the water that is rightly theirs while protecting the water rights of non-tribal water users.

This bill that Senator TESTER and I are introducing also ensures that the Crow Tribe has the infrastructure it needs to develop its water resources. To this end, the bill authorizes funding for a drinking water system that will bring clean water to families across the reservation. This project will help protect public health and help create good paying jobs.

The bill also authorizes the rehabilitation of the Crow Tribe's irrigation system. The Crows' land is important to their identity, their history, and their economy. Rehabilitating the Crow Tribe's irrigation system will ensure that Crow farmers and ranchers can work their land for generations to come.

Mr. President, the Crow Nation is a proud nation with abundant water resources. The bill I have developed with the Crow tribal leadership is a reflection of the Crow people's good foresight. This legislation will protect the Crow Tribe's water, create good paying

jobs, and ensure that the Crow continue to be a proud and prosperous people.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

JOBS, ENERGY, FAMILIES, AND DISASTER RELIEF ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed to S. 3335.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049 be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be agreed to, and the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049 occur at 3 p.m., with the time until then equally divided and controlled by the leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum